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Professor Roberta Carroll Receives the National Order of the Legion of Honor

In a September 28 ceremony hosted by U.S. Ambassador Craig Stapleton, President of the Musée Guimet Jean-François Jarrige decorated Professor Roberta Carroll of New York City as a Chevalier (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honor, following her June appointment by President Jacques Chirac of France. About ten Americans are awarded the Legion of Honor each year.

In making this award to Dr. Carroll, President Chirac made the following citation:

“This award recognizes an eminent professor of medicine...and a great philanthropist”

Dr. Carroll said:

“To receive this great and unexpected honor testifies to the openness of France and President Chirac to intellectual exchange and cultural diversity.”

The National Order of the Legion of Honor is France's oldest and highest military and civilian decoration. Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor recognizes continued “eminent service” to the Republic of France. The Order is not only a decoration, but also an order of chivalry. Recipients of the Legion of Honor are named by a decree signed by the President of the Republic.

Educated as a mathematician at Cornell University, Dr. Carroll completed her doctoral and post-doctoral medical training in Columbia, Harvard, and Boston University Hospitals. She has received many scientific and international awards and has published and lectured extensively in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and India. She has served on the medical faculties of Columbia and Cornell Universities in New York City, Harvard University in Boston, the University of Paris, and the All-India Medical Institute in New Delhi, India.

From 1977 to 1981, at the invitation of the French Government, Dr. Carroll took a leave of absence from the faculty of Cornell University and the Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City to serve as Professeur Agrégé at Université Paris VII and as the Senior Medical Consultant for the installation of the first French-constructed full-body CT scanner at Hôpital Saint-Louis in Paris. She helped train a generation of French radiologists in cross-sectional (CT and Ultrasound) and digital Imaging and in the low-radiation techniques for mammography that she had pioneered at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. While at Hôpital Saint-Louis, she also managed the formation of the first multi-disciplinary outpatient Breast Disease Consultation Service in France.

For many years, Dr. Carroll has been an active supporter of educational and cultural institutions internationally and in the United States. She is Grand Donateur of the Musée National des arts Asiatiques-Guimet, Paris, France, Foundation Benefactor of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio and the Boise Art Museum, Boise, Idaho, Life Trustee of the Albany Museum of Art, Albany, Georgia, Life Benefactor of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, and of the University of Missouri Art Museum, Columbus, Missouri, Sustaining Fellow of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Michigan, and Governing Member of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.